

*De High St. E. and of D. 1710*

# REASONS

*Polit. Pamph. vol 77.*

Why a Certain

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*The Duke of Marlborough*

## GREAT G—L

Has not yet Receiv'd the

# THANKS

Of either of the

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AS ALSO

A short ENQUIRY into those  
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Opinion, why he should receive them,  
with some Conjectures on the Cause of  
our late Disapointments in SPAIN.

*In a Letter to the Mayor of St. Albans.*

Printed in the YEAR, 1710.

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(Page 24)

( 3 )

LETTER  
TO THE  
MAYOR

St. Albans.

**I** Find by yours, that my late Lord  
*Haverham's* Ghost wants Exorcising,  
and that it is high time to remove  
the Prejudices some of your Cora-  
poration have receiv'd from his Pre-  
tended *Speech*, lest the *Decays'd* Peer should  
have the same effect upon the Burrough at  
this Juncture, with his *Insinuations*; as a



*Living Peereſs* has formerly had with he  
*Artifices.*

You and your Brethren know me too well to think that I'll Flatter Her, or have reason to ſpeak any thing but Truth of any one that belongs to Her; It was always my Cuſtome ſo to demean my ſelf as to be above the Fear of Authority, and if thoſe in Power behave themſelves otherwiſe than becomes their High Stations, it ſhall ever be my Buſineſs that their ill Practices ſhall not be above my Cognizance.

Miſtake me not, that I arrogate *Bickerſtaff's* Cenſorſhip to my ſelf; or draw Concluſions from hence, That it is in any private Man's Sphere to aſcend the Throne of Judgment peculiarly ſet apart for Men of High Rank and Condition; but ſince I perhaps have a better Title to write Letters *Living* and in a good ſtate of Health, than any *deſunct* Creature to make Speeches when *Dead*, you'll excuſe my ſending you an Answer to your Queſtion, *Why the D—*  
*has not receiv'd the Thanks of either of the Two Houſes of Parliament?* with the Votes and other Printed News.

Not



Not that I am out of an Interest, which his Grace has gone so great Lengths for the Preservation of, but have the Authority and Grandeur of the *British* Parliaments so much at Heart, as to be very much against their making publick Acknowledgments of Services that have not been eminently distinguish'd by the Advancement of the Publick Good.

That *Dowry* and *Bethune*, *St. Venant* and *Aire*, have fall'n into our Hands this last Campaign is very certain; That we have extended our Conquests, and rais'd Contributions to an incredible Sum is beyond Contradiction; but that We for our parts (I speak of *Great Britain*) are much the better for all these Advantages than we were before they were acquir'd, it will be difficult, very difficult to make appear, since what we propos'd to our selves by the War, remains yet to be gain'd; and *Peace*, and *Dunkirk* demolish'd, seem much farther off now than when we last enter'd into Preliminaries with *France*, for those purposes.

The *Roman* Senates, from which all Assemblies of that Name derive themselves, never decreed a Triumph, no, not so much as an Ovation, for any Conquest under a Province reduc'd to their Obedience, or a Kingdom made Tributary ; and among all their Historians, not an Instance is to be found of any one General's receiving the Publick Acknowledgments after that manner for any one Town being taken, but such as were the Capitals of Commonwealths, and gave Names to Countries and States, as *Carthage*, over which *Scipio Africanus* had this Honour for being Conqueror. Now, since the General you are so very much concern'd for ( whatsoever He has done in former Campaigns ) has only made himself Master, and that for the Advantage of Foreign States, of some few Towns, at the Expence of more Blood and Treasure than the Possession of Them is said to be Worth ; since the *Roman* Examples were of Force to invite us in other Cases, and we have imitated them so closely in our Rewards upon other occasions, why should we go so Wide of them in this?

The D. himself has been pleas'd to take Notice more than once when the Thanks  
of

of Parliaments have been given Him, That *it was the highest Honour could be done to a Subject*; and we should very much depreciate the high value set upon those Thanks, should they be otherwise made use of, than upon the most Meritorious and Important Accounts. Besides, the Representative Body of the Nation that now sits at *Westminster*, are Persons that are under no *Restraint* of being *lavish* of their Money or their Praises, and will not lessen the Price of what His Grace has such an inestimable Regard for, by conferring them but upon the Most Deserving Considerations. Heavens be prais'd for the Queen's and the Peoples Choice, we are safe under the Care of such Patriots as can distinguish betwixt real and imaginary Advantages, betwixt such as *Husband* the War for themselves and Families, and such as carry it on for the Ends it was began for; and know the Worth of their Applause too well to Vote Thanks to his Grace for supporting the Constitution by the Battle of *Blaregnies* and a Glorious Campaign, with their Acknowledgments to Mr. *Hoadly* for endeavouring to destroy it, in almost one and the same Breath, as another set of Representatives have sometime since done.



From Hence it is that the Nation may expect a satisfactory Knowledge in every Session of Parliament of what has been done in every Preceding Campaign, and every Winter Disbursements will be clearly and faithfully accounted for by our Summer Expences. Hence it is, that all His Grace's Heroical Atchievements will be set in a true Light, and *Blenheim, Schellenburgh, Audenard* and *Ramellies*, will shine as becomes the most unpresideded Victories, since to have the Thanks of Parliament for less important Conquests might in any unbiass'd opinion, be to set the *first* and the *last* upon one and the same Footing, and put us upon Ways and Means of settling more 5000 *l's per Annum*, and Investing him with more *Mannors* than those of *Woodstock* and *Wooton*; Gifts at this Time of Day, which I believe we are little able, if we were willing, to part with.

To be perpetually loading *Generals* with Rewards for being Serviceable to their Country, may prove fatal to the States whose Service they are engag'd in, and bring them to such Imposthumated Thoughts as may swell them into too great an Opinion of their own Merits, without any Retro-  
spect

spect to the Duty which is owing to their Country. Had *Athens* been less Liberal, *Alcibiades* had been more Loyal, and had not endeavour'd to have perverted his Countrymens Favours to his Country's Enslavement. Tradition furnishes us with many Instances of the like Nature, and when Subjects are in Danger of forgetting what is due to their Sovereign, 'tis high Time the Temptation should be kept from them that may allure them to it, and those that are in Power should call to mind what is due to themselves.

But to clear my self in relation to some Objections that may be rais'd about this Comparison, you are to be told, that I am far, very far, from bringing the *Greek* Heroe into Competition with the *British*, since the latter as much excels the former in his Actions as he does in his Years, and there is a mighty disproportion between the fiery and unresolv'd starts of the one's Youth, and the unaffected and unshaken Temperament of the other's Age; yet since no Human Being ever attain'd to that Degree of Perfection as not to be liable to the failures of Human Nature, and it is not beyond a Possibility that the greatest Humili-  
ty

ty and Condescension may sometime at other work it self up to more Elevated Notions; those who are his G ———s chief Admirers will pardon me if, tho' I cannot shake Hands with the *Dead Lord Haver-sham's* Assertions, I hold the same Opinion with the *Living*, and say, *What has been, may be.*

The Times have been when the Affections of the Soldiers were more than a Match for the Favours of the State, and numberless Precedents are to be found in Historical Accounts, Domestick as well as Foreign, how much the Supreme Authority of the last has been forc'd to submit to the Usurpations of the first, when Men of Office and Character in the Army have had the Insolence to stand by their General against the Prerogative and just Rights of the Prince; and those that eat His Bread, and receiv'd His Pay, have murmur'd at the Dispensations of that Hand which gave it them, in favour of a *Protector* of their own Creating.

Something like this, if *Examiners*, and Common Fame speak true, has been in Agitation not long since; and when general  
Officers



Officers have the presumption to *drink Confusion to a Ministry*, we may justly apprehend it to be none of their Faults, if the Result of those Execrations does not fall upon their Mistress, since their Interests are so closely united, that what is of ill Consequence to the one, must have the same Effect upon the other, especially were such a set of Counsellors are at the Head of the Administration, as have the Direction of Ours.

You are readily furnish'd with an Answer to this, and tell me, *No General whatsoever is responsible for the Discourse of his Under Officers; and that He can have no share in the Guilt that is an utter stranger to the Crime.* True: Therefore, you find Him undivested of any one of his great Employments, and absolv'd from any manner of Reproach, either from Prince or People; you see Him possess'd of all that a Subject can wish for, or Sovereign can bestow, in the Blessings of Wealth, Honour and Favour, which has no Resemblance of Ingratitude, and absolves Queen and Parliament from any thing like it.

To

To be possess'd of the Chief Dignities of *Great Britain*, and by the Favours of his Royal Mistress to be admitted among the Princes of the Empire; To be made a Duke, Generalissimo of her Majesty's Forces, Embassador Extraordinary, and Plenipotentiary, Master of the Ordnance, &c. by the Queen's particular Bounty; To have his Dutches by the same Unexampl'd Munificence, Groom of the Stole, first Lady of the Bed-Chamber, Privy Purse, Chief Ranger of *Windsor* Forest, &c. and his Daughters in the Greatest and most Honourable Places of Trust near her Majesty's Person, are sufficient Inducements for any one to think that his Services cannot exceed the Rewards have been given for them; and what both Houses of Parliament have done in Commemoration of his Victories and Conquests, must absolve them likewise from the Sin of Ingratitude.

It may seem invidious to tell the World that an Income of more than 100000 *l.* per Annum, would have been a sufficient Recompence for the Reduction of *France* and *Spain* to his own Terms and Conditions; but necessity obliges me to affirm,  
That

That an addition to this, before we have compass'd the ends for which it was given, a Glorious and Lasting Peace, is altogether superfluous and unnecessary, and the way must of Course be pay'd to a fresh Demand, from a fresh Oblation of Thanks.

Justice as well as Reason forbids me to detract from that high Worth which he is so Universally Applauded for; but Nature has Instill'd Principles into me which I cannot part from, such as my Affection for the Place of my Nativity, my Concern for its Peace and Tranquillity, and my desire of seeing it as little Burthen'd as will Consist with its Honour and Interest, and these oblige me not to set too great a Value upon it.

Merit, tho' never so transcendent and attractive of Admiration, will like the Sun in its very Meridian, draw Fogs and noisome Exhalations to it self, and by how much the more Eminent it is in its Dignity and Nature, by so much the more liable and obnoxious is it to the Censures of such as cannot arrive to it. But if it was said by Caesar himself, *That it was Criminal*



*Criminal in Casars Wife, even so much as to be suspected*; if the Empress of the World was thought worthy to be Repudiated even upon bare Conjectures and Surmises, how nearly does it concern such as move in a lower Orb of Greatness, and are only the Delegates of Imperial Authority, to be purg'd from all Imputations that may affect their Character, and set Right in the Eyes of the World that will be their Judges, and without so doing, turn Suspicions into the Highest Misdemeanours?

The Records of past times among the People I before spoke of, the *Romans*, tell us of Generals that for the sake of supporting their own Honour in one Part of the World, are said to have been the Cause of losing that of their Country in all others; Of Consuls, that out of a Regard to themselves and the Perquisites of War, were accus'd of having rejected the Conditions of Peace tho' never so Advantageous to those they fought for; and prefer'd the loss of Legions before Towns, to the Acquisition of Victories in open Fields; of Embassadors, that have postpon'd a certain Benefit to an uncertain Expectation; and tho' it cannot be said any one of

of the foregoing stations have been made use of by any *British* Subject to any one of the foregoing purposes, I presume it may without Offence be affirm'd, That the Persons so Offending, had no Decrees in their Favour from the *Roman* Senate.

What remains for me to say, is, That whenever it shall appear ( as undoubtedly endeavours will be made to make it out ) that our late Misfortunes in *Spain* owe nothing of their Rize to such a vast part of our Forces and Treasure being sent to *Flanders* ; that our present Successes there are a Ballance for our Losses elsewhere, and our insisting upon all the Preliminaries last year without an Equivalent, will bring the *French* King to better Terms the next : I shall readily joyn my endeavours, that the Thanks of the House may not only be given to the ~~G~~ ~~V~~ ~~I~~ ~~T~~ ~~I~~ but to the late M ——— y, who have all along so heartily supported him ; and give my Concurrence to any Vote in his Favour, for any further Premium that shall be thought equal to his Service, or the Nation's Abilities. In the mean time Mr. Mayor, you'll hold me excus'd, if till then,

then, I Rank my self among the *silent*  
Admirers of the last Campaign, and tacitly  
Commend what I cannot so well ex-  
press in Words as your Old Acquaintance  
Mr. Lomax, while I take Pleasure in  
Writing my self

Your

*Affected Friend and Servant.*

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whether it be as undoubtedly  
certain as it will be made to make it out  
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are a Balance for our losses elsewhere  
and our insisting upon all the Preliminaries  
last year without an Equivalent, will  
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last year. I shall not say in my children's  
ears the Thanks of the House may not on-  
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late Mr. V. who have all along  
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